1	2	3	4	5
Jan.	10.85	—	5.14	—
Feb.	9.98	—	4.24	—
Mar.	8.37	—	3.38	—

P-Provisional

(b) to (d) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Recovery of credit card loans by banks

† 1528. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all the guidelines issued by Government and Reserve Bank of India, banks are still recovering their credit card loans through muscle men (recovery on contract);

(b) whether it is also a fact that even State Bank of India (SBI) the most reputed bank in the country is also taking shelter of this means for the recovery of its credit card loans;

(c) if so, the instruction on the basis of which SBI is involved in the said activity alongwith the details of the said contract of illegal recovery; and

(d) If not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Joint strategy of IMF and WB

1529. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) are developing a joint strategy to aid low-income countries which would define their separate roles;

(b) if so, whether this plan is intended to help ensure that the efforts of these key institutions remain well-coordinated and consistent, while leverging each institution's resources effectively;

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) to what extent this will help India in reducing the poverty alleviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have developed a joint strategy to improve coordination on country issues, enhance communications between the staffs of the two institutions working on common thematic issues; and improve incentives and support for collaboration on policies, reviews and other institutional issues. The strategy contributes to clarifying how the Fund and the Bank can work more effectively together, including in low-income countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) There is no intention of the Government to approach the IMF assistance for India's poverty alleviation programmes.

Recruitment drive by Public Sector Banks

1530. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) need to hire 5,00,000 people over the next five years to maintain their current growth rates and for this, the recruitment has to go up three to four times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private banks have grown at 35 per cent per annum and added net additional staff at 43 per cent per annum while PSBs have grown at 17 per cent but reduced their staff strength by 1 per cent per year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring about changes in Human Resources policies and recruitment system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recruit their staff in line with the manpower and business requirements. It is an ongoing continuous process depending upon their growth in business. It is difficult to assess the quantum of recruitment over the next five years, as it depends upon many factors such as growth of business, branch expansion, attrition, outsourcing of jobs, etc.

(b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that it is a matter of fact that private sector banks, particularly, the new generation private sector banks, have grown at a faster pace and in the process these banks have recruited more number of personnel. In public Sector Banks, there has been marginal reduction in staff strength over the period of four years from 2004—2007 largely owing to automatic, attrition, etc.

(c) In terms of the managerial autonomy granted to the public sector banks by the Government, they enjoy full operational managerial autonomy which includes framing of their own "Human Resources" policies & procedures. The banks with the approval of their respective board can design appropriate policies in the matter, from time to time.

Claims of foodgrains suppliers against the erstwhile Bharat Bank

1531. SHRI BASHISTHANARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were some claims made by foodgrains suppliers who migrated from erstwhile Punjab province of Rajkot in India in 1947 on the demand of then Government;

(b) if so, the number of claims settled and pending;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there some claims made by such suppliers which were deposited in the erstwhile Bharat Bank but were neither paid to the claimants nor returned to Government; and

(d) if so, what actions were taken by Government against the bank and who is responsible for payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A private firm had claimed that it supplied a total of three wagons of rice from Kamoke (now in Pakistan) to the erstwhile Rajkot State, one wagon each to